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HON. CHARLES O'NEILL.

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

ON THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

CHARLES O'NEILL

(LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM PENNSYLVANIA)

DELIVERED IN THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATE,

FIFTY-THIRD CONGRESS.

PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1895.

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DEATH OF CHARLES O'NEILL

PROCEEDINGS IN THE HOUSE.

DECEMBER 4, 1893.

Mr. BINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, the sad and painful duty devolves upon me, at the request of the delegation from the State of Pennsylvania, to announce to the House of Representatives, in the accepted formal way, the death of our loved and honored colleague, CHARLES O'NEILL, a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania, who died at his home in the city of Philadelphia on the 25th day of November last.

His death was not unexpected. Those of us who saw and heard him administer the oath of office—almost his last official act—to the distinguished Speaker of this Congress felt that the shadows of death were already encompassing him thick and fast, and that "the father of the House" would soon be called to join his late associates Kelley and Randall, with whom he had earnestly labored, with equal fidelity, for more than a quarter of a century.

But one Representative remains in this House who was associated with him in the consummation of the patriotic, loyal, magnificent, and masterful legislation during the terrible and anxious years of the war of the rebellion. Happy, indeed, was my colleague that it was given to him to see his country reunited and to know that his labors had

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contributed to the peace, prosperity, and happiness of his fellow-countrymen. As we saw him here in this Hall, day by day for many years, faithful, earnest, watchful, and true, so he was always and everywhere.

Surrounded by a loving but broken-hearted family, attended by devoted friends, and accompanied by many of his associates of this House, we saw him but a few days since carried to his last earthly resting place. The benediction has followed the prayer, and the requiem has been sung; "ashes to ashes, dust to dust;" Christ accept him, God receive him. He died as he had lived—loved and loving, at peace with all men.

At some future time I shall ask the House to devote a day when the members may express their feelings in memory of our deceased associate. For the present I offer the resolutions which I send to the Clerk's desk.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with deep regret and profound sorrow of the death of Hon. CHARLES O'NEILL, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House be directed to communicate these resolutions to the Senate, and to send a duly attested copy to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were adopted.

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MEMORIAL ADDRESSES.

MARCH 31, 1894.

The SPEAKER. The Clerk will report the special order for to-day.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That Saturday, March 31, beginning at 1 o'clock p. m., be set apart for eulogies to the late Hon. CHARLES O'NEILL.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Wolverton in the chair). The Clerk will now report the pending resolutions.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of the Hon. CHARLES O'NEILL, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his eminent abilities as a distinguished public servant, the House at the conclusion of these memorial proceedings shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these proceedings to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

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ADDRESS OF MR. WISE.

Mr. SPEAKER: I rise to ask that the resolutions which I hold in my hand be printed with the proceedings of this occasion as an expression of the esteem and friendship with which the late CHARLES O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania, was regarded by his associates of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, of which he was an honored member.

The announcement of his death was received by us with profound sorrow, and we wish to place upon record this imperfect estimate of his life and character.

Mr. O'NEILL came to Washington to attend the first session of this Congress, which began under the proclamation of the President on the 7th day of August, 1893. One of his last official acts in the House of Representatives was the administration of the prescribed oath to its Speaker. It was then apparent that his strength and vital energies were being gradually destroyed by disease. The light had departed from the eyes, the step was no longer quick and elastic. Being in the waning age of life, his friends saw that he could not continue long in the discharge of his duties.

He was soon compelled by sickness to return to his home in Philadelphia, and there died on the 25th day of November, 1893. The end came suddenly, and it seemed to be peaceful and almost painless. In the morning of his last day he rose from his couch, and having dressed himself passed down the stairs to his accustomed place at the breakfast table. The day was passed in reading and social intercourse with friends. No one dreamed that before its close

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the final stroke would fall. Only two hours before the hand of Death was laid upon him he was talking of his early return to the capital and the work there before him. In the family circle the immediate future, with its stirring scenes and sharp conflicts, was the subject of conversation. While thus engaged he complained to his niece and brother of a sudden tightness of the chest and difficulty of breathing. This caused him to go to his room and retire to his bed. The last words he spoke were, "I will sleep," and then laying himself back upon the pillow fell into eternal rest. There was only a momentary struggle, and then "that change which never changes."

Having met him here for the first time and known him only as a Representative, I must leave to others the task of relating the story of his life. Being the oldest in years and service, he was known as the father of the House. If he had lived to the end of this Congress the duration of his service would have been measured by the term of thirty years. Few men have held so long the high and responsible position of Representative, and in this fact we have the best proof that he was worthy of the distinguished honor.

Such instances of repeated popular approval happen only when there is the solid foundation of merit and worth. The best results are not always produced by those who possess the greatest intellectual power. To men of plodding habits we are often indebted for the most valuable achievements. The most solid benefits are secured by the Representative for his people by regular and methodical work. Mr. O'NEILL was not a strong debater, nor was he a man of uncommon vigor of intellect, but was laborious,

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systematic, and conscientious in the performance of all his duties.

In the possession of these qualities we find his chief strength. He was indefatigable in efforts to promote the prosperity of his constituents, and they showed in a marked degree their appreciation of his services. Such success as he won comes only to those who deserve it.

It has been told of him that he never missed a day from the sessions of the House during all the years he remained here, until compelled by his last illness to return to his home for medical treatment. So much can be spoken in praise of but few of his colleagues. It was his habit not to postpone the work of to-day for performance to-morrow. Life is duty, and every man should consecrate himself to its fulfillment. From his conviction of it Mr. O'NEILL derived his rule of action.

He was a faithful Representative and devoted to the interests of his people. He was quick to enter the arena of debate when Philadelphia or Pennsylvania required a champion.

He was a man of warm and generous impulses, of such gentle and kindly disposition as led him to do things agreeable to others. While at times warm and earnest in the expression of convictions, he was always fair and courteous. He caused no wounds by bitter reproaches or harsh words, but was regarded by all with warm friendship and will long be held in affectionate remembrance.

The resolutions referred to are as follows:

Your committee, appointed at the meeting held December 8, 1893, to prepare a suitable memorial in honor of the memory of the late CHARLES O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania, late a member of the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, respectfully report the following:

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"We, the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce of the House of Representatives of the Fifty-third Congress, have heard with deep regret the announcement of the death of our associate, Hon. CHARLES O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania.

"The loss of our oldest member, both in service and in age, would in itself call for respectful action on the part of this committee.

"But in the case of CHARLES O'NEILL, in addition to his crown of years and length of service, his character, his abilities, his devotion to his duties on the committee have earned for near a score of years the respect of his associates, while his courtesy, his kindness of manner and of heart have inspired them always with personal regard and affection.

"Pursuant, therefore, to action of this committee heretofore taken, it is hereby

"*Resolved*, That this memorial be entered on the minutes as a mark of enduring respect to the memory of a courteous associate, a distinguished and laborious Representative, and an upright and God-fearing gentleman, whose death has been a lasting loss to his fellow-members in this committee and the House, to his constituents whom he served justly and faithfully, and to his country.

"*And further resolved*, That this memorial and resolutions be reported from this committee by its chairman to the House on the day set apart by special order for eulogies on Hon. CHARLES O'NEILL, in order that they may form a part of the permanent record of the proceedings on that occasion."

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ADDRESS OF MR. STORER.

Mr. SPEAKER: When I came to the House of Representatives, at the beginning of the Fifty-second Congress, I was honored by being placed upon the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce. The first day I entered that committee I met a gentleman who had been well known to me by name and reputation for many years. He was the senior member of the minority of that committee, and well as I had known his reputation I still was struck by the respect and personal regard that all the members who had known him before showed CHARLES O'NEILL. I found that he also had been made a member of that committee upon his first entrance into Congress, at the beginning of the Thirty-eighth Congress, in December, 1863. I found that he had served on that Committee on Commerce down to the end of the Forty-first Congress without intermission, and with distinguished usefulness to his constituency and to the work of the committee.

On his reentering the Forty-third Congress the Republican party, to which he from its birth belonged, being then in the majority, he was not put on this committee again, but on a committee at that time of much greater importance and much greater labor, that on appropriations, on which he served through the Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Congresses. At the assembling of the Forty-sixth Congress, I learned, as the party now in the majority in the House was at that time in control of its organization, he was again the senior member of the minority upon his old Committee on Commerce. The Forty-seventh Congress

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once more showing Republican control, Mr. O'NEILL was again on the Committee on Appropriations; but when the Forty-eighth Congress met, and from that time down to the date of his death, he became and remained the senior member of the minority on his old committee.

To a young member, looking up almost with veneration to men who had served their people and the country faithfully and well for such a length of time, it seemed a thing to be very proud of to look back upon such a career as CHARLES O'NEILL'S. It was not long before I myself came to know him, and I looked upon him with the same feeling of entire respect, perfect confidence, and affection, if I may use the word, with which those who had known him longer always spoke of him. Of his usefulness to his State and his constituency, his State and his city can best speak through their Representatives; of his distinguished and devoted services on the floor of the House a hundred men can speak with more experience and information than myself.

But, Mr. Speaker, upon the Committee on Commerce there are but two of us, fellow-members of the minority with Mr. O'NEILL, left over from the Fifty-second Congress, and one of these two is necessarily absent to-day. It is on this account and under this excuse that I feel justified in taking part of the time allotted by the House for remarks in remembrance and in respect of our deceased colleague. If there was anything that his fellow-members on the committee knew, it was that Mr. O'NEILL looked faithfully and well after the interests of everything and everyone, however remotely connected with the constituency that sent him here. He was, in the fullest sense of

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the word, a faithful representative of his people. Just to all men, trampling on no man's rights, interfering with no other man's prerogatives, he was all the time looking out for the interests of his people and his home.

In national matters he was not careless nor narrow-minded. In affairs that belonged to the business and commerce of the whole country he was not unmindful nor provincial, but when anything came near touching for good or for ill the welfare of the city that he loved so well, he was preeminently on the alert; then his mind seemed to quicken, his intelligence to brighten, he became aggressive, fearless, persuasive, emphatic, whatever the occasion seemed to require. He was a man of entire integrity of character, great experience in the routine business of committees, knowing well when to let a matter alone which did not necessarily demand his attention or his time, but never allowing anything to pass which it was his business to inquire into, to watch over, to oppose, or to press.

But with all this, Mr. Speaker, what endeared him to the men he was thrown with in almost daily work upon our committee was his never-failing courtesy and geniality of manner, his ready smile, his instant willingness to apologize for any offense given without intention (and he never gave offense otherwise), and the kindly spirit with which he accepted contradiction, argument, and dissent. He had that rarest of mental and physical attributes, a sunny temper. I think for a man of his age he was the most cheerful man and the most cheerful company that I have seen for many years. His conscience seemed at rest at all times with himself, with his fellow-men, and with his Maker.

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He was a man of kind heart. He was a man of deep religious conviction, and while his kindness of heart never showed itself in loose or inconsiderate ways, his religious convictions, so far as I could learn, never degenerated into bigotry, bitterness, or narrowness.

The serene and cheerful spirit that he had was so strongly characteristic, and I might say absolutely the strongest characteristic of his mind, that grief or sorrow in the ordinary sense of the words, even in those very close to him, are not the feelings or the words that are naturally called to mind or which fitly describe our loss. It is not tears, it is not mourning that are suggested by his departure, but rather a confident hope and expectation of seeing again that cheerful smile, that kindly manner, that serene, sunny, and peaceful old age.

Without gloom, without solemn ceremony, without conventional melancholy of manner or of words, I say, "Good-bye, dear old CHARLIE O'NEILL."

Say not "Good night,"
But in some brighter clime
Bid me "Good morning."

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ADDRESS OF MR. BROSIUS.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a proverb among the Arabs that death is a camel that kneels at every man's door. He has knelt with sad and sorrowful frequency at the doors of the Pennsylvania delegation on this floor in the last five years; and we are again called to pay our respect to the memory of another distinguished Pennsylvanian, whose period of service in this House has established his title to the distinction of being the father of the House.

I therefore crave a brief indulgence to mingle my voice with the swelling anthem of affectionate and eloquent eulogy on this occasion, because I respected and honored our departed friend while living, and dead I feel a sincere and reverential regard for his memory.

The duration of his life, the usefulness of his labors, the benevolence of his feelings, the elevation of his sentiments, and the nobility of his character united to form an attractive and interesting personality and a career instructive and admirable in a high degree.

Those who wrought with him and observed him through the long period of years in which he served an appreciative and confiding constituency upon this floor are commissioned to speak of those excellencies of character which found their illustration in his extended and distinguished career in the service of his country, a service which he decorated and adorned with perfect fidelity and the most disinterested devotion to every detail of duty.

My acquaintance with him and observation of his career prompt me to say that CHARLES O'NEILL was in some

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respects an ideal Representative. He made no pretension to greatness. He never masqueraded as a leader or a master. He knew that in the lottery of faculties all men could not draw first prizes; that all Members of Congress could not be front-rank statesmen; that in the gladiatorial contests of statesmanship a great majority of this body can only be helpers to the principal actors in the drama. He had no pride that made him ashamed to take a second place. He believed in the adage "The tools to those who can best use them; the floor to those who possess the highest aptitude for intellectual encounter in the arena of debate." Still, he did not abstain from participating in discussion when impelled by a sense of duty to take part.

A local measure affecting his constituents, or in which the city of Philadelphia was concerned, awakened in him an enthusiasm of loyalty which overcame his reluctance and brought him to his feet. When he took the floor, he spoke with a clearness, force, and fervor which rarely failed to awaken interest in his views. But he never wasted the public time in needless words, and always ceased speaking when done—an example which statesmen of high and low degree might imitate with profit to their own and their country's fame.

To see others toiling and achieving in fields of action above his range never grieved him. He was content to serve where he could be most serviceable. If he was employed in an honorable, necessary, and useful task—though humble—though but cutting a face in a cherry stone, in the true spirit of patriotic service and dutiful endeavor, it did not trouble him that another was carving a colossus out of a rock. His kindly soul never knew the taint of jealousy or envy.

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This quality helped him to usefulness within the limits which he prescribed for his exertions and furnished an example quite worthy of imitation.

A most notable characteristic of Mr. O'NEILL was his kindly and sympathetic nature. His graces of mind and heart, amiability of character, sweetness of disposition, gentleness of manner, and fine courtesy made conquest of universal esteem and placed him high in the hearts of all who knew him.

He had a punctilious delicacy for the feelings of others, upon which he never inflicted an intentional wound. His heart was full of the healing balm of sympathy. In his breast was a perennial spring of the milk of human kindness, and he found delight in helping and serving others.

His devotion to his constituents was a conspicuous feature of his public life. He was to them a father. It is said that he knew most of them personally. He took them into his capacious affections, watched their interests, guarded their rights, anticipated their wants, and served them in all needful ways with a fidelity as beautiful as his industry was tireless. The jocular observation of someone, that he answered every letter from a constituent within twenty-four hours and then went home to see if the answer had arrived safely, was a hyperbolic expression of the prevailing sense and universal appreciation of the energy and promptitude with which he performed the duties of his representative office. That his constituents appreciated him, loved him, and reciprocated his affection and devotion by keeping him in Congress for more than a quarter of a century is not surprising. They knew his diligence in their service; they knew that the command of

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duty was to him a "thus saith the Lord;" that no draft made upon him in any matter whose claim he recognized would ever go to protest. So they trusted him and were never betrayed; confided in him and found him worthy; continued him in their service and were always well served.

The lesson such a career teaches appeals to all of us; that the only way for a Representative to securely hold the confidence and affection of his constituents is in the demonstration of his worthiness by integrity, fidelity, industry, and efficiency in their service.

Our brother reached and passed the bounds of man's appointed years. The mysterious clock which the Angel of Life wound up to run three-score years and ten then closed the case and gave the key to the Angel of the Resurrection, as beautifully suggested by Dr. Holmes, ran a little beyond the appointed time. As the clock at his bedside struck the hour for the November sun to fling his good-night kisses of crimson upon the pale cheek of the expiring day and sink to rest, his sun went down in the evening glories of his well-spent day to rise in the radiant light of a new morn.

How suddenly Death came. They heard the rustle and saw the shadow of his wings, and it was over. He said to his attendant and affectionate niece, "I think I will sleep." In a moment he slept the dreamless slumber of the dead. In the words of another, "As the shadows steal at evening over the earth, softly closing the flowers and touching them to sleep, silently and lovingly in the promise of a bright waking," so he fell asleep. Nature, with no rudeness in her touch, but softly and gently disengaged the

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vital cord, and he passed serenely into rest on the other shore of that mysterious sea "that never yet has borne on any wave the image of a homeward sail."

He is gone, but he left behind him for our instruction the lesson of his beautiful life of sympathy and service. To contemplate it and emulate it is the only way to make it profitable to us. Death comes, like a faithful schoolmaster, with the open book of a closed life and assigns the lesson which we must study or lose its teaching. I borrow the lines of a poet to express what I desire to accentuate as the "golden text" in the lesson of this dutiful and beautiful life:

> The bravest lives are those to duty wed,
> Whose deeds, both great and small,
> Are close-knit strands of an unbroken thread
> Where love ennobles all.
>
> The world may sound no trumpets, ring no bells,
> The book of life the shining record tells.

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ADDRESS OF MR. MORSE.

Mr. SPEAKER: There is to my mind always a tinge of sadness about the "last time," and when I hear that one of our members is dead I frequently turn to the Congressional Record to see what was his last utterance on this floor, and though it may only be a motion to adjourn or a call for division, there is a tinge of sadness about it. It is sad to think of the last day of school in our childhood, the last time you saw a friend, the last day of a legislature, or of a Congress, when we break up never all to meet again.

The last appearance of Mr. O'NEILL in this Hall occurred only a short time before his death, and the last words uttered by him which appear in the Congressional Record are found on page 302:*

Mr. O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to strike out the proviso.

He had been for twenty-eight years a member of this House; these Halls had echoed with his voice, participating in the debates in all those years. These were his last uttered words in debate on this floor.

His last speech was delivered August 14, 1893, on the question of mileage. His last question in debate was addressed to Mr. Holman, of Indiana:

I would like to ask the gentleman from Indiana a question.

On page 1008,† August 28, 1893, is recorded his last vote, where he responded "Aye" in favor of the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act, never to vote again.

* Congressional Record, volume 25, part 1, Fifty-third Congress, first session.

† Ibid.

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His last petition was filed October 23, 1893, and was a resolution of the Union League of Pennsylvania.

Did you ever think what it was that gave the pathos to that little couplet, which you used to recite when a boy at school, about—

——the last rose of summer
Left blooming alone;
All her lovely companions
Are faded and gone.
* * * *
I'll not leave thee, thou lone one!
To pine on the stem;
Since the lovely are sleeping,
Go, sleep thou with them.

It is the fact that it is the last rose of summer that gives its pathos to this little couplet.

Our friend, in whose honor we have met, remained on duty here almost to the last. He died at the post of duty. You remember when the surgeons gathered around Mr. Garfield in yonder depot when he was stricken down by the vilest assassin that ever cursed the earth—you remember he asked the doctor if the wound was mortal. And the surgeon replied, "We fear the worst," and Mr. Garfield replied, "Doctor, I am not afraid to die." Why not? Because he was at the post of duty. Are you and I at the post of duty?

One of my illustrious and distinguished predecessors in this House, who represented the same district which I have the honor to represent, for sixteen years, John Quincy Adams, the old man eloquent, died in yonder Hall.

He died like our brother, at the post of duty. His last words were, "This is the last of earth; I am content."

Some of the oldest people who live in New England will tell you that in their boyhood they heard their parents tell

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about a dark day. It occurred on the 19th day of May, in the year 1780. It began to grow dark at 10 o'clock in the morning. At noon it was so dark that people could not see to read outdoors.

Our fathers had very few books besides the Bible. In that book they read that God had appointed a day in which he would judge the world, and in that day the sun should be darkened. Very many of the good people of New England thought the day of judgment was at hand.

Indeed, the strange phenomenon has never been explained. The only explanation ever offered was that the smoke from burning forest fires in the West met a dense fog from the east. Anyhow, on the 19th day of May, in the year 1780, the people in New England could not see to read outdoors at noon time.

This dark day overtook the Connecticut house of assembly in session, and amidst a profound stillness and silence and gloom a member arose in his place and said:

Mr. President, it is evident, sir, that a strange and wonderful providence of God is upon us, by which we can not see to read at noon time. It may be, sir, that the day of judgment is at hand. In view of this strange providence, I move you, sir, that the Connecticut house of assembly do here and now adjourn.

There was a member of the house who was a Quaker, and whose name was Abraham Davenport, and he arose in his place and said:

Mr. President, I am opposed to the motion to adjourn. I am utterly unable to explain the darkness; it may be as my brother has said, that the day of judgment is at hand, but as I know of no better place to be overtaken by death and the judgment than at the post of duty, I move you, sir, that the candles be brought in and the act be read again.

And they were, and the business of the house went on. Are you and I at the post of duty in the larger sense of those words? Then, like John Quincy Adams, James

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Abram Garfield, like Abraham Davenport, like our brother O'NEILL, who has left us, we may not fear death or the judgment, and it will be well with us in time, and well with us in eternity.

Mr. Speaker, it was my pleasure to know quite intimately CHARLES O'NEILL. When I became a member of the Fifty-first Congress the kindly benevolent face of this good man at once attracted me, and my later intercourse with him, as we went out and came in together during the Fifty-first and Fifty-second Congresses confirmed my first impression of Mr. O'NEILL.

It is recorded in the book that Darius, king of the Medes and Persians, after the fall of Babylon, thought to set Daniel over the whole realm, and made him chief of the three presidents, who should have charge of the affairs of the kingdom, because an excellent spirit was in him.

A similar reason might have been assigned for the honors that were paid CHARLES O'NEILL by the great State of Pennsylvania during his long and eventful life and during his long service, extending over a generation, on the floor of the national House of Representatives.

Mr. O'NEILL was a modest, unassuming, honest, able servant of Pennsylvania and the people who honored him. In his death the nation has lost a statesman, the people have lost a champion, philanthropy, virtue, and religion have lost a consistent and earnest supporter, and I have lost a friend.

We shall all miss his pleasant smile and his cheery "Good morning." We shall see him no more. Farewell, CHARLES O'NEILL, a long, last farewell!

Mr. O'NEILL was a religious man. I had several conversations with him upon matters pertaining to concerns of

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the soul. He made no boast or exhibition of his religion, and was rather inclined to distrust his own acceptance and preparation for the great hereafter; but I am fully persuaded that he was a thoroughly good man, that he leaned fully on the Crucified One, and that he has now gone to see the King in his beauty, and has exchanged his home on earth for a brighter and a better home in heaven.

What is the lesson of the life and public services of CHARLES O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania? First, it ought to be an inspiration to every American youth. His honesty, industry, patriotism, earnestness, and ability in his chosen calling proves to the youth of our land that these qualities carry in their hand the sure prestige of victory and success.

The honors showered upon this man by the great State of Pennsylvania, his long and eventful life, are but a demonstration of the facts that in this favored land of ours there is no royal road to learning, and that honor and shame from no condition rise.

The youth of our land want to be impressed with the importance of laying the foundation of their characters well, and that honesty, virtue, and religion are the only enduring foundations of character.

It has been said that character is a creature of slow growth; it buds in infancy, blossoms in childhood, and has its fruitage in later years. I have seen young men who had a fear that they would not be appreciated, but my observation is that in the long run people pass for about what they are. Calumny or aspersion may for a time shadow a life, but in the end we, each and every one of us, are sized up about right.

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And when the fitful fever is ended and the foolish wrangle of the market and forum is closed, and grass heals over the scar which our descent into the bosom of the earth made, and the carpet of the infant becomes the blanket of the dead, then, if not till then, justice will be done us, and with an iron pen a record will be made that is just and true.

I know little of the family life and home life of our dead brother. Though never married, I presume he had the usual allotment of joys and sorrows of cloud and sunshine, of thorns and roses in his path.

I ran across a little piece the other day with the title "What is your life?"

A little crib beside the bed,
A little face above the spread,
A little shoe upon the floor,
A little frock behind the door,
A little lad with dark-brown hair,
A little blue-eyed face and fair,
A little lane that leads to school,
A little pencil, slate, and rule,
A little, winsome, blithesome maid,
A little hand within his laid.
A little family gath'ring round
A little turf-heaped, tear-dewed mound.
A little cottage and acres four,
A little old-time fashioned store,
A little added to his soil,
A little rest from hardest toil,
A little silver in his hair,
A little stool and easy chair,
A little night of earth-lit gloom,
A little cortege to the tomb.

That is what life is.

And I thought when I read those verses, "Oh! how sad they were without the light of immortality to shine upon them."

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I attended church in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in London once; there were 15,000 people in the church. Canon Stubbs recited the Episcopal prayer which says: "O, Lord, have mercy upon any that are afflicted in any manner in body, in mind, or estate."

And I said to myself: "Is there a single person in this vast concourse that does not need to say that prayer?" Certain, sure, I was one there that needed to say it.

And do you know, the longer I live and the more I mingle with my fellows, the more I think that if this world is all there is of life, the game for the average man and woman is not worth playing; and in this sad circumstance I find an argument in favor of the immortality of the soul, and an argument in favor of the gospel, that points to a place and a tribunal where the inequalities and injustices of this world are made right.

Plato, a heathen philosopher, thanked God for three things: First, that he was born a rational soul; second, that he was born a Greek; third, that he lived in the days of Socrates. If this poor, benighted philosopher, who knew nothing of God, of heaven, of Jesus, and of eternal life, had that for which to thank God, surely what have we, who stand in this apex of the nineteenth century, and who by a knowledge of the gospel, and who by repentance and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ may look away from the disappointments and sorrows and vexations of this mortal life to that city which John saw in the Island of Patmos, whose streets are gold, whose gates are pearl, whose walls are sapphire; a city that infinitely outrivals in its beauty and magnificence the almost fabled White City that recently sat on the shore of Lake Michigan; a city that has no need of the sun, and where there is no sickness, sorrow, or crying!

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To that beautiful city our brother O'NEILL has gone, and for aught I know looks down on us here and now, as we have assembled to do him honor.

The great dramatist has said, "All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players," of which Washington life, with its ever-changing panorama, is a fit illustration. A gentleman called my attention to the worn condition of one of the thresholds of solid stone of one of the gates leading to the White House from Pennsylvania avenue. Where are the feet that wore that stone? For a hundred years Presidents, Cabinet officers, Senators, Members of Congress, statesmen, and thousands of citizens have passed over it.

Of this great army, most of them have long since played their part in the drama of life. With them life's fitful fever is over, and they have left the shores of time for that bourn from whence no traveler returns.

They have had their little day of fame, of honor, of pleasure, and have joined the silent majority. Across this threshold passed in and out John Adams, the second President of the United States, followed later by that proud-spirited military chieftain, Gen. Andrew Jackson, and by Gen. William Henry Harrison and Gen. Zachary Taylor.

Over that threshold, in and out, went our brother O'NEILL for more than a quarter of a century; in the terrible days of the war went Abraham Lincoln; over it, arm in arm with Secretary Blaine, went the lamented Garfield to his death by the hand of the vilest assassin that ever cursed the earth. It clanked with the arms of the British soldiers who sacked the capital in the war of 1812.

Over it have passed untold thousands of visitors. O, what a story of the drama of life could that threshold tell!

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Abraham Lincoln's favorite poem, which he loved to repeat was, "O, why should the spirit of mortal be proud?" This city is less than one hundred years old, but it has witnessed the triumphs of peace, the pomp and circumstance of war, has been sacked by a foreign enemy, and was the scene of the final review of our returning victorious armies from the greatest war of all history.

In Westminster Abbey in London I saw a cenotaph to Gray, the author of "An elegy in a country churchyard," and I thought how he himself, like all the great men who have ever lived in this city and are a part of our history, was but an illustration of his immortal words, "The paths of glory lead but to the grave."

When we have the sad reflection that all worldly honor and fame, pleasure and riches, are transitory and fleeting; when we reflect how fleeting are the great events in history and how transient are the lives of individuals and sometimes of nations, it is refreshing to turn away to something that is enduring and abiding; to think of honors that will never grow dim, and of joys that will never end, so well expressed in the grand old hymn:

Great God, how infinite art Thou,
What worthless worms are we;
Let the whole race of creatures bow,
And pay their praise to Thee.

Thy throne eternal ages stood,
Ere seas or stars were made;
Thou art the ever-living God,
Were all the nations dead.

What is the lesson that we should learn from what I have here recited? We should learn to—

So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm where each shall take

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His chamber in the silent halls of death,
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave
Like one that wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

The longer I live and the more I mingle with my fellows, the more I am impressed with the fact that vastly greater and more enduring than the pleasures of wealth, of military or civic honor, of which you are so often reminded here, are the honor and satisfaction that come to those, no matter what their station in life, who exemplify in their walk and conversation the teachings of the lowly Nazarene, and who have treasure laid up that will abide when these canvas paintings in Washington have faded, when the marble of this beautiful city has crumbled, and when its granite has turned to dust.

The truly great are those who—

—— departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time;—

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

For Daniel said, "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

So, once more I say farewell, CHARLES O'NEILL. We shall feel the warm grasp of your hand no more. We shall hear your cheery, pleasant voice no more; it is still and hushed in death. We shall look up into your kindly, benevolent face no more. Farewell, CHARLES O'NEILL. A long and last and sad farewell.

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ADDRESS OF MR. ENGLISH OF NEW JERSEY.

Mr. SPEAKER: I had overlooked the fact that this day was set apart for paying tribute to the memory of my late friend, CHARLES O'NEILL. I am not in that condition, fortunately for the rest of the House, that I can occupy your time long; but I can not allow this occasion to pass without saying something of my old friend.

Fifty years ago, in front of the State House in Philadelphia, there stood seven gentlemen, whose ages ranged, as my memory serves me now, from under forty to twenty-two years. I was one of these. The oldest of them, I think, was Robert T. Conrad, the jurist, orator, poet, and playwright, whose name still lives in American literature.

There was George W. Barton, the judge, who when on the bench was always listened to with attention by the bar, and when at the bar was listened to with attention by the bench. There was Henry S. Patterson, who died too young. He was a man of the clearest ideas, with the power to couch them in the most vigorous and forcible language of any man I have ever known. There was William D. Kelley, who for a long time was known as the father of this House, and whose memory is still fresh in the minds of many members. There was Benjamin H. Brewster, afterwards Attorney-General of the United States; and there was the youngest of all, then only twenty-two years of age—CHARLES O'NEILL.

They met together by accident, and, as men will, began to talk—at least the younger members did—of their hopes

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for the future, and they were chafed not a little by their elders in the group. I remember very well what O'NEILL and Brewster and partly what I myself said. They were the words uttered by young men of ambition and hope.

To-day I stand here the sole survivor of the seven, to pay a tribute to the memory of the youngest of them all.

CHARLES O'NEILL and I were boys together. He was younger than I by two years, and consequently as we grew up I somewhat lost sight of him until we became young men together, and then I lost sight of him after that for years.

I came to Washington on one occasion and took breakfast with William D. Kelley. Mr. O'NEILL came in and made himself known to me, and recalled then many instances of our boyhood which he, being younger than I, had kept more vividly in his memory. We had a pleasant interview and it lasted for hours.

Although I remembered his early character, his early habits, and the pleasant times we had together as young men, I saw little of him after until I became a member of this body, when we renewed our old acquaintance and strengthened our friendship. I learned to love him then as most of the members of this House who knew him learned to love him.

He was truly a lovable man. There was a touch of feminine softness in his nature that made it difficult for him to do harm to anyone, even a foe; but it must not be supposed from that that he lacked firmness, or the power to defend, to oppose, or to attack, if need be.

He came of a race that has lived in history as one of the boldest and bravest of its kind, and there was never

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one of that lordly strain of the ua Nial, however great he may have been at counsel, or however mighty he may have been on the field, that had more real firmness when the need arose than the humble descendant who filled his place in this Hall. I have known him time and again when someone would presume on that kindly soft nature of his to show that he had an iron hand within the velvet glove. He was a man of courage, and stood up for his convictions manfully.

His views on public affairs were entirely different from mine. We never agreed; but it never broke our social relations, it never interfered with our friendship. I respected and loved him, as I believe he respected me.

I do not propose to waste time to speak of the long public service of CHARLES O'NEILL. His colleagues who sat with him here and who come from his own State have done and will do justice to that part. I have only to say this, that his loss to me was something more than an ordinary loss, because it carried me back to the old days in Philadelphia, when we were boys together, when we played together, and sometimes avoided our school together. It bears me back to many pleasant scenes of young manhood, when I had fire and ambition, and so had he.

He embarked on a different course of life than mine. He entered into the law and remained there until his fellow-citizens determined to have his services in a public capacity, and there he maintained his position well, while I went to follow a more erratic life, without a single purpose fulfilled, and without that fixity of purpose which marked him.

But though he made no great and commanding figure here, though he did not stand here as the leader of his party

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or as one who molded those around him to his will, his name will not perish because of that. There are men—and men. There are great men whom the world does not always recognize, and the greatest man of all is he who does his duty to his fellows and himself; and CHARLES O'NEILL was preeminently that man. As the gentleman who spoke before me has said, men around us make their mark on the sands of time, but the waves of oblivion speedily efface them. CHARLES O'NEILL did not make a deep mark on the sands of time, but he carved his name without effort on the rocks above, where the storm does not reach; and when men of more pretense are forgotten, those who knew him and loved him, and those to whom the story is told, will keep his memory green in their souls.

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ADDRESS OF MR. HICKS.

Mr. SPEAKER: To properly observe and faithfully commemorate the life and public services of one who had for so many years occupied so exalted a position as the Representative of a large district of one of the most flourishing and largest manufacturing cities of the world, as did CHARLES O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania, requires more thought, and should receive a more careful review, in order to do proper honor and pay that meed of respect that is justly due to the deceased and his people, than can be given in the few moments of time allotted to me by the courtesy of the House in the brief space of time set apart for these services. And while the ceremonies of the occasion are solemn and impressive, it must be remembered that they are due, and the good man whose memory we honor was one of the trusted and true men of this great nation before the present generation was born; and the high and distinguished appellation placed upon him by naming him the "father of the House" was not won alone by long and continuous service, but gentleness of disposition, urbanity of manner, kindness of heart, and cheerful and polite deportment to all, placed him upon a pedestal of love and honor that is rarely reached by man among his fellows.

This Hall is in many respects, Mr. Speaker, like its marble exterior, cold and repelling. This is a place in which all of us find but a temporary residence. Our real friendships are elsewhere. This is a busy hive of concentrated thought, the workshop of the representatives of a

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great nation, whose duty it is to legislate for all, care for all; in which each Representative in his own way works for the interest of his own particular district, as well as for the country at large. In the inevitable bustle and struggle incident to such work we scarcely note one falling in the contest, and the death of a member is soon effaced from memory, and the note made upon the record passes with the day, and is soon lost to sight and mind. Yet when the death of this sweet-spirited man, this noble exemplar of God's handiwork, was announced, this active mass of active minds and of active work halted, yea, even stopped, and with one accord all was stilled, and the acknowledgment went forth that a good citizen, a true man, a patriot and statesman had fallen; and so long as memory lives and history inscribes its scroll the honored name of CHARLES O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania, will be engraved upon its tablets as one of the ideal men of the generation. Not only will he be remembered as one who loved and served his country, but as one "who also loved his fellow-man."

The good people of the good city of Philadelphia, that seat of loyalty to country and the home and birthplace of American freedom and liberty, knew his worth, and as the coworker and colleague of that energetic and earnest defender of American industries, the untiring William D. Kelley, and the brave, vigorous, manly, and determined defender of the interests of his city and State, and leader of men, the honored Samuel J. Randall, he was the survivor, and fittingly so, of the work and services of these three of Pennsylvania's best and ablest contributions to the cause of "liberty, equal rights, and human progress" of the generation. And so long as the name of one of these

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great men shall live, so long will the three survive. They stand linked inseparably together as three of our country's best citizens and statesmen, who in all they did never lost sight of those duties which should be ever uppermost in the mind of every true lover of his country, namely: "Loyalty to home, loyalty to State, and loyalty to country."

These three great thoughts controlled the minds and actions of these three great men, and their names are inseparably united, and the great city of Philadelphia, true to its traditions and to the memory of its great name and fame, honored itself at each returning election in the reelection of this most unselfish of men to his honored place here. As the associate of Lincoln, the supporter of Grant, the colleague of Kelley and Randall, the trusted guardian of his city's honor and his State's fair name, he was faithful in all his undertakings and zealous in every good cause that interested his city, State, and country; and he had an abiding faith in "ultimate America," and firmly believed that ours was a destiny that had been intended from the beginning to ameliorate the condition of the human family and place it upon a higher plane of civilization and of happiness, and with that energy and purpose characteristic of his Scotch-Irish ancestry his efforts tended firmly yet certainly in that direction, and with as true and fixed a purpose as draws the magnet to the pole his eye, voice, thought, and labor were always in the direction and for the betterment of the human race. Conservative in thought and in action, yet he was among those who earnestly advocated the cause of the liberation of the slave, and when that great work was consummated he felt that the last blot

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upon the world's fairest banner, our own Stars and Stripes, was through the providence of God obliterated.

In the legislation subsequent to the great civil war, when the passions of men were yet heated from the effects and memories of that great strife, his voice and vote were for moderation, and with open hands and a forgiving spirit he welcomed back to the Union of States our brethren of the South, and his earnest desire was that the great American Union should be a union of hearts as well as a Union of States. From his lips there never fell harsh criticism or unkind words of the erring men of that time, and in word and deed he carried out the prayer and spirit of Lincoln, "with malice toward none, with charity for all, and with the high resolve and purpose that our dead shall not have died in vain, and that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom;" and in all his public acts as well as in private life he did all he could to bind up and heal the wounds of that unhappy struggle. He was a model of kindness, sympathy, and love, and richly deserved the title of "father."

Such, Mr. Speaker, in brief, was the public history of this good man, and during his entire career as a member of this House for thirty years he stood preeminently as a faithful Representative, a pure-minded man, and a sincere lover of his country. He hath—

> Left a name and fame above the blight
> Of earthly breath;
> Beautiful, beautiful, and bright,
> In life and death.

The long-continued public service of our deceased friend had made him familiar with the details of that service that are so necessary to its proper conduct; and in public as

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well as in private affairs he believed in justice, and the least as well as the greatest was entitled to this consideration and always received it from him. He firmly believed that the practice of justice was the only true road to success in all governments, and this practice meant "in doing injury to no man;" and as justice and judgment are the habitation of the throne of the living God, so were they ever present in the mind and life of our friend. By this rule of life and the practice of this principle, and his steady adherence to its cause, he enriched his long and useful life with contentment and insured a painless and happy death, and the reward that has been promised from the beginning to such as he, is now surely his.

Mr. Speaker, honor to our friend was the reward well earned by his fidelity, and of this ennobling trait of his character too much can not be said. Unto him no trust was committed to which he proved faithless or unworthy; and to him and his memory honor is as true gold, that passes without other recommendation than its own purity. Self-respect, which is the corner stone and foundation of all virtues, was peculiarly his, and modesty resided within his breast to such an extent that his manner plainly indicated an enrichment from the enjoyment of all the nobler virtues, and his expressions always impressed one with his talent and genius. He had in a bountiful degree that God-given talent of industry, and by the use of this most excellent gift he was crowned by his own merits; and by its proper use success in life became to him a certainty, and by this blessed talent of being always employed it was to him a tower of both strength and defense.

Of integrity, which is manhood's true honor, let his constituency speak for him. For thirty years they kept him

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as their Representative in the forefront of one of the foremost districts in one of the foremost cities of the foremost country of the world, and in all these years not even a whisper or breath of suspicion of faithlessness, defection, betrayal, or even faltering in duty has been heard of or known to exist, nor did aught occur to mar or tarnish his good name and fame. The humblest citizen of his district knows of his good deeds and of his noble, pure, and stainless life as well as of his usefulness and charity. He was a generous and faithful follower of the truth, and always kept his eye upon his guide, never deceiving either himself or others, and by his discernment and practice of the good in his daily life he proved his commission to be from a higher than earthly source; and his belief in the Giver of all Good and in a just and merciful providence was evinced by his weekly presence in God's sanctuary on each returning Sabbath day, and there from God's acknowledged minister he received the message of peace and love that he carried into his daily life, and the lessons there learned from the sacred desk were beautifully exemplified in his daily walk with men.

It is well and we believe truthfully said that the valiant never taste of death but once, and we who had the honor of knowing our friend know that he was valiant, and death came to him, not with terrors, but like the serene and peaceful hour of a closing summer day, and the spirit of this good man, when it passed into eternal and blissful rest, found a sweet repose from the labors of a useful and busy life; and when that great beyond and quiet haven known as death, which is but the tyrant of our imagination, was reached by him whose memory we honor to-day, we can

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not for a moment think or believe that he felt that his future was—

> ——to die, and go we know not where;
> To lie in cold obstruction and to rot.

Nay, nay! He went through "gates ajar," welcomed into a land of beauty and promise, a land of "pure delight," and there he found a cure-all for the fatigue of years. By death the gates of fame to him were opened, and the doors of envy forever closed. All competitions and rivalships were at an end, and our friend but used the path—

> That must be trod
> If man would ever pass to God.

In his death, as in the death of every good man, we look from time into the vale of eternity, and from a life of ache, imprisonment, and the infirmities of age into a new life of eternal youth and blissful immortality. Death to such as he is but the opening of life—the life that lives forever.

Such, Mr. Speaker, was the peaceful and blissful end of one who had been faithful in all his doings, and it is an honor to this body to have it said he was one of us; his end was peace, the sure reward of a life of devotion to duty. Fidelity, integrity, and honesty were the marked characteristics of this good man. These speak louder than words of eulogy. Like unto a ripened shock of corn, like wheat ready for the garner, after the fulfillment of the allotment of years allowed by God to man he was gathered to his fathers. Of such we can truly say:

> There are no dead, we fall asleep,
> To waken where they never weep.
> We close our eyes on pain and sin,
> Our breath ebbs out, but life flows in.

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And of our illustrious dead whose memory we this day honor we can say as was truthfully said and written of another of America's great men:

> Of him no envious tongue upbraids,
> His name a nation's heart shall keep
> Till morning's latest sunlight fades
> On the blue tablet of the deep.

His memory is sweet as the essence of the purest of flowers, and his example is one worthy of the emulation of each of us.

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ADDRESS OF MR. REILLY.

Mr. SPEAKER: According to the order of exercises as originally arranged for this occasion it was not contemplated that I should take any part; not because of any disinclination to perform this sad duty, nor from any want of admiration for the life and character of our late lamented colleague, but because I had been called recently on several similar occasions to take part in like exercises commemorative of other colleagues; for, as we are reminded, death has been playing sad havoc in the ranks of the Representatives from the great Keystone State.

However, I can not, even though unexpectedly called upon, refrain from adding my humble tribute to the cherished memory of our late associate, CHARLES O'NEILL, and laying on his tomb a garland betokening my esteem and reverence.

It was my privilege to know him well, and during the years of our association here our relations were uniformly pleasant and friendly. I first made his acquaintance in the Forty-ninth Congress, when, as quite a young man, I had the honor of first becoming a member of this body; and the kindly greeting, the cordial disposition which he extended to me at that time endeared him to me ever after, and I am proud to say that although we differed politically, our social relations were always intimate, and I might even say friendly. He was of a most genial nature.

If, Mr. Speaker, as we believe, the nobility of man consists in his being endowed with those qualities the perfection of which is to be found alone in the Deity, then those

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who knew CHARLES O'NEILL best must regard him as one of the noblest types of manhood, for surely from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet he was without guile. He was just; he was generous; he had charity to all and malice toward none, and exhibited those qualities of head and heart which ennoble human nature. I doubt, indeed, whether it was possible for him to harbor a malicious thought or feeling; he certainly was incapable of carrying it into execution. But though kindly of disposition and broad in his charity, yet, as has been eloquently stated, he was firm, courageous, and fearless in the discharge of duty and in carrying out his convictions of right.

His career as a Representative in this body, his fidelity to duty, his untiring industry, his lofty patriotism, and his amiable disposition have been eloquently portrayed by the gentlemen participating in these exercises, and I need but emphasize.

His long career here was exceptional and extraordinary. Looking back over the three decades which he served his constituents and his country so faithfully and so well, taking a retrospect of the vicissitudes of the political and natural life that make up the history of those thirty eventful years, it falls to the lot of but few men indeed to enjoy the great distinction and long public career that he did. We see CHARLES O'NEILL ever assiduous, faithful, devoted in the performance of his duty throughout that whole period, a career which affords a striking illustration to the youth of the country of the reward which follows devotion to duty.

He has passed away from us, Mr. Speaker, full of years and of honors. His sun had risen to the meridian and has

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now sunk below the western horizon, and all that remains to us is to cherish and revere his memory.

As I said at the outset, I had not prepared any special remarks for this occasion, and I speak from the promptings of my admiration for the man and his illustrious career, although no words that I can utter, or anyone else, can at all exaggerate the merits of the life and character of Mr. O'NEILL. His life work, crowded into those thirty years of service, is the best eulogy that can be pronounced upon him, for from the beginning to the end his life was without blemish or fault, and his long career was never tarnished by even the breath of scandal. His life work is done, and well done will be the verdict of the constituency he served so long and so well.

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ADDRESS OF MR. ADAMS OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Mr. SPEAKER: Among all civilized peoples from immemorial times it has been a beautiful custom to mingle with laments for the dead eulogies of their well-spent lives. The Greek elegy, the resounding prose of the Roman orators, the limpid speech and incisive phrase of the French Academy, and the lofty and pathetic verse of Milton and Tennyson have been alike in the one great purpose of teaching the lesson that the highest life is that which is lived for others. The public servant has this reward, that as the tendency of his toil and labor is to take him out of himself and set before him the public good as his highest aim, so the popular heart is willing to condone his faults and errors and to remember only that he was one who had in his way striven to serve his fellow-man. But when such a public servant has brought uncommon physical energy, blessed with long life and large faculties of head and heart, to the tasks and obligations of political life, we must feel it to be a sad yet sacred duty to bring our unavailing regrets, mingled with words of commendation, to his bier.

Mr. Speaker, a good man has fallen; a valuable public servant has gone from among us. A representative of some of the best elements of our national progress, a tried and trusted legislator, has answered at a higher roll call than this.

CHARLES O'NEILL came of old Revolutionary stock. His grandfather handled a musket in the war for independence as a member of Captain Helm's company of the New Jersey line. When the war was over he laid down his gun

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and took up the more peaceful occupation of teaching school at New Castle, in the State of Delaware.

His son (the father of our late colleague) afterwards removed to the city of Philadelphia, where CHARLES O'NEILL was born on the 21st day of March, 1821, in a house built during the Revolutionary war on ground owned by the venerable parish of St. Peter's Church, on the north side of Spruce street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, and in it passed his youthful days. His preparatory education was received at the celebrated school of the Society of Friends, on Fourth street in the said city, under the charge of John Sanderson, a scholar who has left his impress on many of his pupils. Thus well grounded, young O'NEILL entered Dickinson College at Carlisle, in the State of Pennsylvania, without difficulty, in the year 1837, and while there that patient industry was developed which so characterized his later life.

During his stay in college the president wrote his mother that he had seen enough of the boy to know that he would make his mark in the world if given a chance, and advised on graduation that he should pursue the study of the law. This letter was the turning point of his life, for on taking his degree in the year 1840 he entered the office of that distinguished barrister, George M. Dallas, afterwards Vice-President of the United States, and in the year 1843 was admitted to the practice of law in the courts of his native city.

Mr. O'NEILL soon developed a taste and aptitude for public affairs, and in the year 1850, while still a young man, was honored by his fellow-citizens by an election to the house of representatives of the State of Pennsylvania on the Whig ticket, and was complimented by a reelection in

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the years 1851 and 1852. So well did he fulfill his duties as a representative that his constituents in the next year promoted him to the State senate, where he was noted for the same strict attention to the interests of his district, which now covered a larger field and more diversified interests. In the year 1860 he was again returned to the house of representatives of his State as a Republican.

The career of CHARLES O'NEILL in public life was no sudden streak of fortune or of happy accident, as has characterized the career of so many men distinguished in the history of our country, but was founded and continued upon a conscientious performance of duty which gradually impressed itself upon the people of his city, and who showed their appreciation by his steady advancement at their hands, at the same time moved by a conviction that it was for their own advantage to retain the services of so faithful a public servant.

He was nominated by the Republicans for Congress in the year 1861. That party had not the hold upon the people at that date that it afterwards acquired; and Col. Charles T. Biddle, a gallant soldier, was his Democratic opponent. Despite these facts, so great was O'NEILL'S popularity that he was defeated by only 218 votes, and for the following term he defeated Colonel Biddle by 2,546 votes. Mr. O'NEILL'S majorities increased steadily during his nearly thirty years of service, his last being in the year 1892, 6,405. He was returned as a Representative to Congress continuously until the day of his death, except one term, when he was defeated by John V. Creely, an independent Republican supported by the Democrats.

The history of Mr. O'NEILL for the nearly thirty years of his Congressional career is intimately interwoven with

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the history of the period of that service, and the student will find the record of his acts in harmony with the loyal efforts to preserve the Union and with the best interests of the financial management of the country, and on the vital questions of currency, tariff, and commerce were conservative and sound, as propounded by the best minds and the closest thinkers of his party.

His chief and marked characteristic was his regular attendance upon the sessions of this House, his strict attention to the questions under consideration, and to the wants of his people. No constituent ever had to write him a second time to secure attention to his request, and no interview was ever denied an applicant in Washington or at his home. The services of no Sergeant-at-Arms was ever necessary to notify him that the public business was being delayed on account of his absence, and but few quorums failed for the lack of his vote.

Mr. O'NEILL did not pose as an orator, and never spoke unless he had something to say bearing on the question at issue. He never failed to command the respect and attention of his colleagues, because they knew that peculiarity. His talk was always vigorous, concise, and accurate. In committee he was a most useful and indefatigable worker and always alert to advance or protect the interests of Philadelphia; and to him as much as to any member is she indebted for the appropriations made from time to time for the harbor improvements and also the appropriation for the new mint to be built in the city of Philadelphia.

The average citizen does not realize the requirements of legislative bodies and of governments as to details; both would become so clogged that the frame of society would

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dissolve if it were not for the patient, unassuming, industrious public servant like CHARLES O'NEILL, who for forty years served his people so well. Through this long term of service no breath of dishonest scandal ever touched his name, and when it is remembered that great men, his colleagues and friends, were besmirched with the "Credit Mobilier" and "Star Route" frauds, to say nothing of lesser corrupt legislation, it adds the luster of unassailed integrity as another laurel to lay on his bier.

Mr. O'NEILL was not ambitious, unless it was for the continued approval and acknowledgment of services advantageous to his constituents. His aspirations never led him to wish for or to seek the Speakership of the House, although his long service and great knowledge of parliamentary law gave him a claim to that honorable position. His idea of Congressional service was upon the floor of the House, continued by successive elections, showing the undiminished confidence of his district. He had his wish and died the "father of the House," and will take his place in history beside his colleagues who also attained similar honor; and the names of Kelley, Randall, and O'NEILL will ever stand out brilliantly from among the sons of Pennsylvania who shed luster upon their native State by their able representation in the National Legislature.

During his course in Congress he had as colleagues Thaddeus Stevens, James K. Moorhead, Edward McPherson, and Galusha A. Grow, so recently returned a member, full of years and honors, but, alas! to find but few of his former associates left. From other States were seated Justin S. Morrill, Henry L. Dawes, John A. Logan, William Windom, Elihu B. Washburne, Roscoe Conkling, James G. Blaine, James A. Garfield, Nathaniel P. Banks, Samuel S.

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Cox, and William S. Holman, who is still a member, and succeeds Mr. O'NEILL as "father of the House."

It is given to but few of a member's constituents to know of his home life, but it was there that some of the strongest and loveliest traits of the one we mourn to-day showed themselves. It was in his library, crowded with documents of every sort that related to Philadelphia, that his great knowledge of her affairs and of all things that concerned her citizens was demonstrated. He was familiar with every measure, public or private, relating to Philadelphia, and his information was at the disposal of all.

One of the marked traits of the deceased was his gentle nature and kindness toward his associates. A beautiful compliment was once paid to a Senator, that "the consciousness of having unintentionally used a discourteous expression would bring a blush to his face." It might with equal propriety be said of Representative O'NEILL that the consciousness of having wounded a brother member would have given a much deeper wound to his own heart. One who knew him well thus described his character to me:

> He had great determination, and was sympathetic to a wonderful degree; duty was his greatest characteristic. No personal pleasure or thought of self ever interfered with his public service. To his country and his family he was equally faithful. Truthfulness was another trait; he could not tolerate even in jest the least deviation from the truth. He had the simplicity of a child, the tenderness of a woman, with the strength of a man, and all that was most beautiful in him was thrown out most in his home life.

His death was in keeping with his life.

The fatigue of the extra session in the summer was beyond his failing health. His last act was to administer, as the oldest member, the oath of office to the new Speaker.

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He returned to Philadelphia, where his vitality rapidly waned, and on November 25, 1893, he laid down for rest, and it proved to be everlasting, for he never awoke. His burial, too, was simple; save the official presence of the Congressional delegation, it might have been thought a plain citizen was being given the final rites; but as one looked around the Presbyterian Church he would have been impressed with the sad faces of the many gathered to do him honor.

Rich and poor were assembled there, for all classes knew they had lost a faithful Representative and friend, and as the plain coffin that held all that was left of CHARLES O'NEILL was borne down the aisle but few of the eyes that beheld it were undimmed with tears, and yet all felt they could find some consolation in Cicero's eloquent words:

> His end was not unfortunate, for he died mature in years and full of honors and at a moment happy for his fame, but unfortunate for his country.

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ADDRESS OF MR. WRIGHT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

Mr. SPEAKER: We are assembled in a historic Chamber whose walls during the long century since its foundation have echoed and reechoed infinite sounds as they reflected the roar of the lawmaking machinery of a great nation—the angry notes of heated partisanship and the persuasive plea of eloquence. Here we are more accustomed to listen to the conclusive facts of the statistician, the logical argument of debate, to present stirring pleas for right, or to hurl flaming denunciation of wrong.

But to-day no voices such as these resound. Argument has been stilled, and genius employs its powers only to lay eloquent tribute at the feet of the dead. With sadness and the awed accents which we use toward the one who has performed his last earthly work and learned the final, the mightiest, secret that nature withholds from mortals, we, his friends and colleagues, gather to give testimonial to the life work and character of the man who has recently passed from our midst. For every dead some tears must fall. The millionaire is wept by his retinue of beneficiaries; the ashen face of the beggar is fawned upon by his faithful dog. But the cynic complains that this grief is seldom sincere; that these trappings and suits of woe are but a mockery, and that eulogy too frequently consists of fulsome encomiums, uttered in compliance with the dictates of empty formality and sounding with a hollow ring.

Human nature is indeed weak, but it has enough mingling of the Divine essence to appreciate what is good and

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admirable in man, and, when called upon to mourn a truly noble character, its grief is real, for its loss is genuine.

With such grief do we pay tribute to the memory of CHARLES O'NEILL, a member of this House from the city of Philadelphia, and who was serving his fifteenth term in Congress when removed by the decree of the dread destroyer.

The announcement of his death last November was received with lamentations throughout the country, for he had gained a national reputation by a long and exemplary life devoted to the service of the people. The highest eulogium which can be pronounced on anyone was paid to him when the people and their public exponent, the press, burned the incense of their sorrow around his bier, uttering voluntary praise of his virtues.

As private citizens we then mourned over his grave; it now remains for us to give official recognition of his character and to record in our archives the deep regret which we feel for the loss from our body of one who was for so many long years hailed as its Nestor.

The historical associations which so richly cluster around the city of Philadelphia are an inexhaustible theme for eloquence and reflection. Philadelphia gave birth to American liberty and proudly nourished the child into strength; there was framed the wonderful document which bound us into an indissoluble Union, and there the early years of our Government, presided over by Washington and Adams, were spent in building firm foundations for the greatest nation on the globe.

With such associations was Mr. O'NEILL'S whole life closely intertwined. Born in Philadelphia in 1821, his elder townsmen had heard the bell proclaiming liberty to

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all the world; had listened to John Nixon read the Declaration in the State House yard, and taken part in ratification, celebration, and inauguration ceremony. He himself passed daily under the shadow of that most notable State House, and learned lessons in good citizenship and good government from the traditions of Penn and Franklin.

How sincerely he appreciated the great deeds of great men was shown in 1871, when, as the Representative of his city in the Forty-first Congress, he advocated the bill providing for the celebration in Philadelphia of the one hundredth anniversary of American Independence, and in an eloquent and effective speech said:

> The people want it where the events occurred, where the Continental Congress held its sessions, Carpenter's Hall, although surrounded by commercial warehouses, still standing and destined to remain forever a monument to the patriotic men who there assembled; where, too, as you all know, is Independence Hall, the very room in which the Declaration was agreed upon, unaltered in its interior arrangement, and the building itself consecrated to the end of time as the temple of American freedom, never to be closed to visitors, who ever delight to enter its sacred portals. Why, then, should we hesitate about the passage of this bill? Let us show to the world that we can compete with every nation in the arts, sciences, and in manufactures; and more than all, let us declare that, at the distance of one hundred years from the day of the Declaration and from the very spot upon which we were made free, the men of America still cherish the memory of those who laid the foundations of our greatness and of our unequaled prosperity.

Mr. O'NEILL soon realized his expectations of the Centennial Exposition. Within a score of years thereafter he also saw his country so increase in wealth and power that it could give, to celebrate the four hundredth anniversary of its discovery, another World's Exposition, surpassing in beauty and wonder any previous human conception.

One of the most striking features of Mr. O'NEILL'S public life was his untiring devotion to the city of Philadelphia and its interests. Let but the word "Philadelphia" be

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uttered by a member in any part of this House and he was instantly on the alert, watching proceedings and always championing the cause of his city, no matter what the question might be; defending her when attacked, lauding her when criticised, and always guarding her fair name and fame with a true lover's devotion until we had all come to look upon him as the especial champion of Philadelphia.

No lover was ever more devoted to the object of his affection than was CHARLES O'NEILL to the city he represented and which he loved so well. Even to have lived in Philadelphia was sufficient to secure for any such person his kindest consideration, and this affection for his native city was not that of the demagogue, but sprang from the heart, and as he grew older in years it seems his love for the city which had honored him became more and more intense, and none of us who sat with him during his last few years in Congress have failed to note the fact that his life seemed bound up in the interests and welfare of his native city. Never having been married, and having no family of his own, it seemed that the love which might have gone to wife and children was bestowed upon the city and people of Philadelphia, and it can be truly said that while that city honored him with such a long period of continuous service, yet he in return by his undying devotion and splendid championship conferred an equal honor upon the city he represented.

Mr. O'NEILL'S education at Dickinson College had strengthened his ties to his State, and when, after his admission to the bar, he proved himself not only an able forensic pleader, but a citizen alive to the public needs, his native city, whose hearth he never deserted, sent him as one

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of her representatives to the State legislature. For two years from this time (1860) he served in one or the other of the branches of the Pennsylvania legislature, a period memorable in our history for the heated discussion arising from the sectional differences existing north and south of Mason and Dixon's line, a boundary which the famous surveyors had dated from Mr. O'NEILL'S own city.

True to the traditions of that State, which had been the keystone of our early Union, he was stanchly faithful to the National Government, and when the awful throes of civil war racked the country his townsmen recognized his loyalty and sterling worth by sending him as one of their Representatives to the Thirty-eighth Congress. From this year (1862) up to his death in 1893 the name of CHARLES O'NEILL was omitted from the roll call of this House for but one term, that of the Forty-second Congress, when the gallant war record of Mr. Creely aroused the enthusiasm of a people just mustered out of a victorious army.

Faithful to his constituents, fully awake to the public welfare, steadfastly upright in all his aims, he conscientiously and ably performed his duties as a Representative of the people for nearly thirty years, a term of service equaled only by one now with us and far distancing all others.

Among the ancients such length of time devoted to the people and to the nation would have been deified in their temples. They would have believed the gods to be the direct coadjutors of a man who could for such long years, through varying epochs of social and political progress, retain the unshaken respect and confidence of his constituents. Among the first to enlist in the ranks of that party which took "The Republic" as its banner cry, he forever

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remained unwaveringly true to its tenets. He was a firm believer in and teacher of its liberal conservatism, of its care for the people's industries and interests. In witness of its wisdom, he saw it safely guide his country through the perils of a tremendous civil war, and healing and strengthening and increasing the Union from thirty-three to forty-four States—the greatest nation in history.

A typical gentleman in habits, manner, and tastes, the influence of Mr. O'NEILL'S quiet personality was always for good. His were not the rhetorical soarings of the loud-voiced orator, nor the blatant leadership of the demagogue. He spoke to speak well, whether for or against the question in debate, and his words always received that attention which they deserved, since his absolute integrity and his knowledge of the principles and details of his duties in this body secured him a respectful and attentive hearing, made more voluntary by his uniform courtesy and genial disposition.

"Mild in manner, resolute in conviction," his name is permanently written in the annals of our nation as an exemplary type of citizen—a benefactor to his fellows, a lover of his country, an honest man.

The legions of heaven had watched him perform, day after day, year after year, the work laid to his hands, with never a shirking of responsibility nor a diminution of fidelity. At last they cried, "This man is unimpeachable; we have tried him well and found him not wanting;" and, as he was again about to put his shoulder to the wheel, yet unbent by the weight of more than his allotted three-score and ten years, they called to him, "Rest, thou good and faithful servant."

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ADDRESS OF MR. HENDERSON OF ILLINOIS.

Mr. SPEAKER: My acquaintance with the late CHARLES O'NEILL, of Pennsylvania, began at the meeting of the first session of the Forty-fourth Congress. He was at that time an old member of the House, having served as such for ten years. There were but few, as I remember, who had served longer than he had. CHARLES O'NEILL was then in the vigor and prime of life, and was one of the most faithful, painstaking, laborious Representatives I have known since in all my twenty years' service as a member of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, he was more uniformly in his seat in the House than almost any member I have ever known, and he was always at work for his constituents and in the discharge of his public duties when the House was in session. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that CHARLES O'NEILL was indifferent in any manner to the general welfare of his country. I think he was proud of the whole country, and wanted to see every part of it prosper, yet he was devoted to his immediate constituents—to his own district and State—to a degree that I have never seen equaled by any other member of any of the Congresses in which I have served.

His correspondence with the people of his district and city and State was an extensive and burdensome one; and yet he bore the burden with a patient, untiring industry. He wrote at his desk from the meeting of the House until the hour of adjournment, unless some other duties

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demanded his attention, and he took pride, as he once told me, in answering all his letters on the day they were received. I felt that such constant labor as he performed was telling upon his physical strength, and expected him to break down sooner than he did. Our relations were always intimate and pleasant, and I sometimes remonstrated with him for such unremitting labor, but it was unavailing; and when this the Fifty-third Congress met in extraordinary session in August, 1893, it was painful to witness the wonderful change which had taken place in him in a few months. It was manifest that the end was near.

Mr. Speaker, I can not well repress a feeling of sadness to-day when I think of the many able and distinguished members of the Forty-fourth Congress, with whom I had the honor of serving, who have since departed this life and are now over on the "other shore." Garfield, Blaine, Wheeler, Kelley, Kerr, Randall, Hill, Lamar, and many others, distinguished for great ability and for their long and eminent public service, have gone to—

> The undiscover'd country, from whose bourn
> No traveler returns.

And now our departed friend, CHARLES O'NEILL, the kind and courteous gentleman, the faithful friend, and the able, watchful, vigilant Representative and legislator, has followed them to that better land, where I trust he, and all of us who shall follow him, may find rest and peace and joy forever.

Mr. Speaker, others have spoken at length of the life and character and the public services of him to whose memory we pay tribute to-day, and I can add but little to what has been so well and so eloquently said by them. But I can

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not permit the opportunity given me to pass without expressing the very high regard which I entertained for our departed friend, and the deep sorrow which I felt when I heard of his decease.

Mr. Speaker, the life of CHARLES O'NEILL was full of good deeds. He worked with wonderful energy and industry for the people of his district and State. It has been my pleasure to notice in many ways and on many occasions during our long service here how devoted and earnest he was in his efforts to promote the commercial interests of Philadelphia and, I may say, of Pennsylvania. While he was liberal and generous in the support of all public measures intended to benefit and promote the prosperity of the entire country, still whatever was proposed to advance the interests of his own city and State aroused and excited every effort which he was able to put forth for its accomplishment.

In the Forty-sixth Congress he and I served on the Committee on Commerce, a committee in which the city of Philadelphia had a great interest, and it was then that I learned to know CHARLES O'NEILL more fully for his real worth as a representative of his constituents and as a man. And afterwards, serving as I did upon a committee for many years which had before it for consideration from year to year matters of deep interest to his district and to the city of Philadelphia, I had an opportunity of knowing how untiring he was in looking after their interests. That he was ever watchful and vigilant, and served his constituents and his country with unswerving fidelity and with industry, energy, and ability, no one familiar with his service will question.

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Remembering as I do his kindly nature, his dignified and gentle deportment, his faithful friendship, and his long, able, and patriotic public service as a Representative in this body, I offer with a feeling of inexpressible sadness this tribute to the memory of CHARLES O'NEILL, who was always a kind friend and a faithful public servant.

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ADDRESS OF MR. DALZELL.

Mr. SPEAKER: During the time that I have had the honor of a seat in this Chamber I have never before, save in one instance, risen to speak on an occasion such as this. The language of eulogy is so apt to be either perfunctory on the one hand or extravagant and fulsome on the other that I hesitate to be tempted to its use. But the affection that I sincerely felt for CHARLES O'NEILL when living, and the esteem in which I hold his memory now that he is dead, both alike protest against my keeping silent in this gathering, the purpose of which is to do him honor. And so I come to lay my little chaplet upon his tomb.

Mr. O'NEILL'S career was in many respects remarkable. It was remarkable in the length of his public service; in the stirring and important events that it included; in the fidelity to duty and loyalty to principle that it displayed, and in the wonderful personal sweetness and amiability of character that gave to it its charm.

It is not given to many men, unless they be men of extraordinary talents, or unless they come into public life under extraordinary circumstances, to hold office so long as did Mr. O'NEILL. Entering the arena of politics before he was yet thirty years of age, he continued a more or less conspicuous actor therein until he had passed man's allotted span of three-score years and ten. During this long term he served for a time in the legislature and in the senate of his native State, but for a much longer time as a Representative in the Congress of the United States. Whether in

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State legislature, State senate, or national House of Representatives, he was at all times the conscientious, industrious, and faithful servant of the people whose commission he held.

It was Mr. O'NEILL'S fortune to take part in the most stirring and in many respects the most vital and important events in the legislative history of the nation, and to serve side by side with colleagues many of whose names are among the most conspicuous and illustrious in the list of American statesmen whom posterity will delight to honor. Some of them entered the House at the same time that he did.

Beginning his national career with the opening of the Thirty-eighth Congress, he found among his colleagues—like himself, new to the duties and honors of the House—James A. Garfield, whom we now know as President and martyr; William B. Allison, now an honored Senator from Iowa and one of his party's most prominent leaders; ex-Governor Boutwell, of Massachusetts, and James G. Blaine, whose remarkable career was to include all the honors that all the places in the popular gift save one could bestow in addition to the honor of a loving place in the hearts of his countrymen. At this session of Congress also the name of Mr. O'NEILL'S distinguished colleague, Samuel J. Randall, another honored son of Pennsylvania, was found for the first time on the rolls of the House.

When Mr. O'NEILL entered upon his Congressional service the nation was in the throes of a struggle for existence; when he left it the Union had been reestablished, the Constitution restored, and the friends and the foes of 1863 were united under a common flag, in a common pride to work

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out a common destiny, in which they have a common faith. Thirty years had intervened, years of events potent in their influence in the world's civilization and pregnant especially with the fate and the fortunes of this Western Hemisphere, thirty momentous years of which our deceased colleague could say, Quorum pars fui.

During this period of time the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth amendments to the Constitution, suggesting and enacting new notions of liberty and as to the character, rights, and privileges of American citizenship, had become part of our organic law. Legislation of a most important character in connection therewith had been originated, debated, fought over, and passed. The abolition of slavery had been accomplished and its extirpation secured by constitutional and legislative guaranties. The Freedmen's Bureau had been established, the civil-rights bill passed.

Reconstruction had been provided for. The problem of how to deal with a great public debt, the questions connected with a disturbed currency, the whole seemingly illimitable field of uncertain finance, superimposed upon the complications growing out of the disturbed political relations of loyal and insurgent States, had furnished a wide sphere and a difficult one for legislation.

In the fevered and unnatural condition of affairs two Presidents had fallen martyrs by the cruel hand of assassins, and in time of profound peace the popular security had been threatened by a heated partisan contest over the succession to the Chief Magistracy—a contest fortunately peaceably settled by ingenious legislation.

I have no desire to enlarge upon the stirring episodes of that time; I would not attempt even to catalogue them; but

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it is a perfectly patent thought that no man could have been an actor therein and a part thereof continuously, under commission of biennial recurring popular elections, who did not possess such qualities of mind and heart, of wisdom, discretion, and loyalty to duty and principle as commended themselves to the discriminating judgment of an intelligent constituency.

I do not mean to say that Mr. O'NEILL was conspicuously connected in any dominant sense with these important historic measures or with any one of them. I only mean to say that he bore his part faithfully and conscientiously therein. I would claim for him nothing that he would not claim for himself, and it was characteristic of him that he never aspired to leadership. He aimed at no showy talents; he was not aggressive and self-seeking; but he was an honest man who without pretense did faithfully all of each day's duties as each day came, and of such is the kingdom of the deserving.

A few simple strokes are all that are necessary to paint in outline the character of CHARLES O'NEILL.

He held himself trustee for his constituents. For all of their interests, according to his creed, he had a like responsibility as for his own. This was his simple, but lofty and comprehensive conception of duty.

To this conception of duty he was loyal as to any conception of duty any knight ever was; without fear and without reproach, like another Bayard. As his loyalty never flagged, so his labors for others never ceased. It was his boast that in all his long career he had hardly ever missed a day from the House until his last sickness came, and between him and his accustomed place the shadow of

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the inevitable intervened. Hardly even at the last did he realize that he was about to be cut off from the labors that he loved.

Just about a month before his death I spent an hour at his bedside in Philadelphia. He talked to me of the past, and how it had been his delight to be constant in his attendance upon the House; he talked of the future hopefully, and expressed his determination to go to Washington the succeeding week to vote on the free-silver bill, which would then be back from the Senate, a determination that he was not permitted to carry out. Withal he faced the possibilities of the future and spoke resignedly, and of the fact that in the nature of things the remainder of life for him must necessarily be short. He spoke as a man who had led his life had a right to speak, confidently and fearlessly of the hereafter.

He was a loving and lovable man. I never heard him speak ill of any human being. He had charity for all and malice toward none.

What he faced when his loving eyes closed on earth we neither know nor can know. We can only trust and believe. But if, as someone has said—a Frenchman, I believe—"Life is the preface of eternity," then CHARLES O'NEILL'S life bespeaks a volume to follow that shall be full of useful deeds of loyalty to duty to be done eternally in a spirit of love.

And so, parting from him, his life and death in review before us, we are glad to speak of him as of one who, to paraphrase the poet, did—

> So live, that when his summons came to join
> The innumerable caravan which moves
> To that mysterious realm where each shall take

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His chamber in the silent halls of death,
He went not like the quarry slave at night,
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed.
By an unfaltering trust, approached his grave,
Like one that wraps the drapery of his couch
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

And then, in accordance with the terms of the resolutions, the House adjourned until Monday, April 2, at 12 o'clock meridian.

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PROCEEDINGS IN THE SENATE.

APRIL 5, 1894.

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. T. O. Towles, its Chief Clerk, announced that the House had passed the following resolutions, which he was directed to communicate to the Senate:

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
March 31, 1894.

Resolved, That the business of the House be now suspended that opportunity may be given for tributes to the memory of the Hon. CHARLES O'NEILL, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That as a particular mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, and in recognition of his eminent abilities as a distinguished public servant, the House at the conclusion of these memorial proceedings shall stand adjourned.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these proceedings to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

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JANUARY 26, 1895.

Mr. CAMERON. Mr. President, I ask that the resolutions of the House of Representatives relative to the death of my late colleague in that body, Hon. CHARLES O'NEILL, be laid before the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Pasco in the chair). The resolutions of the House of Representatives will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

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March 31, 1894.

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Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these proceedings to the Senate.

Resolved, That the Clerk be instructed to send a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased.

Mr. CAMERON. Mr. President, I submit the resolutions which I send to the desk and ask for their adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The resolutions submitted by the Senator from Pennsylvania will be read.

The Secretary read the resolutions, as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. CHARLES O'NEILL, late a Representative from the State of Pennsylvania.

Resolved, That the business of the Senate be now suspended, in order that fitting tribute be paid to his memory.

The resolutions submitted by Mr. Cameron were considered by unanimous consent and unanimously agreed to.

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ADDRESS OF MR. CAMERON.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Suitable and appropriate eulogiums have heretofore been pronounced in the other branch of Congress upon the life and services of CHARLES O'NEILL. I now ask the indulgence of the Senate to suspend its business at this time so that his friends in this Chamber may briefly add their tribute to the worth of a man who had rendered long, meritorious, and conspicuous public service; who had endeared himself to all who knew him, and whose constituency regarded him with confidence and respect.

CHARLES O'NEILL, a Representative from the Second Philadelphia district, died at 6 o'clock and 15 minutes p. m. at his residence in Philadelphia on Saturday, November 25, 1893, in the seventy-third year of his age, succumbing, after a most useful and honorable life, to that most dread of all diseases—consumption. At the extraordinary session which met on the 7th of August, 1893, being the oldest member in term of service in the House, he administered the oath of office to the Speaker of that body. His last vote was recorded on the bill for which the President had called Congress together, and on the 28th of that month his condition became such that he was compelled to return home, never more to take part in the great council of the nation. Remarkable as it may appear, it was the first time during his unusually long service that he had from illness or any other cause been absent from his seat while Congress was in session.

My late colleague, CHARLES O'NEILL, was born at Fourth and Spruce streets, in Philadelphia, March 21, 1821. He

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was descended from Revolutionary stock. His grandfather carried a musket in the war for independence as a member of Captain Helm's company of the New Jersey line; and when the war terminated he taught at New Castle, Del., the first school established at that place. His family owned a great deal of real estate in Philadelphia at that time, one of the houses of which, at Guilford and South streets, was occupied by General Tarleton as his headquarters at the time the British forces occupied the city. In this house John O'Neill, the father of my late colleague, was born. He became an architect of no little repute in those days, but he died before his son CHARLES, whose memory we to-day commemorate, had reached his teens.

CHARLES O'NEILL was sent to Dickinson College, at Carlisle, at sixteen, preparatory to studying law. He, however, did not take kindly to that study, and after some months wrote to his mother appealing to her to allow him to return home and engage in some congenial business pursuit. The tender-hearted mother wrote to the president of the college and made the request, but he prevailed upon her to allow CHARLES to remain, as he had already shown considerable aptitude in his studies and gave signs of promise. So the young man continued at college, and after graduating, in 1840, he entered the law office of George M. Dallas, being admitted to the bar three years later, when he began actively the practice of law. Subsequently he turned his attention to politics, and in 1850, being then a member of the Whig party, he was nominated and elected a representative to the State legislature. He was reelected to the same position in 1851 and again in 1852, and in 1853 he was elected to the State senate. Having joined the

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Republican party, he was again elected to the house of representatives at Harrisburg in 1860, the party of which he had been a member having disappeared.

In 1861 Mr. O'NEILL was nominated by his Republican friends to the national House of Representatives to fill the unexpired term of Edward Joy Morris, who had been appointed minister to Turkey by President Lincoln, but he was defeated by Col. Charles J. Biddle, the Democratic nominee, by a majority of 218 votes. Undaunted by his defeat, he again entered into a contest with his former antagonist, Colonel Biddle, in 1862, and defeated him by a majority of 2,546, taking his seat in the Thirty-eighth Congress. He was successively elected to the Thirty-ninth, Fortieth, and Forty-first Congresses, but in 1870 he was defeated for the Forty-second Congress by John V. Creely, an independent Republican candidate, by a vote of 11,059 to 10,124, the latter receiving the votes of the Democrats, who had failed to nominate a candidate. However, with the indomitable pluck and energy inherent in those of Scotch-Irish ancestry, he reentered the field in 1871, this time coming out victorious, and he took his seat again in the other House in 1872, having defeated Edward Joy Morris, who was the candidate on the Greeley ticket.

From that time forward Mr. O'NEILL served his constituents assiduously and unswervingly until the fatal malady overtook him. When he was elected to the Fifty-third Congress he received 16,107 votes against 9,056 votes cast for his opponent. He had held elective offices for nearly forty-three years, during twenty-eight of which he served in the House of Representatives. He was a member of many important committees in the other House, the principal

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ones being the Committees on Commerce, Appropriations, and the Library, on all of which he rendered conspicuous and faithful service.

Through the death of Judge William D. Kelley and Samuel J. Randall Mr. O'NEILL succeeded to the honorable sobriquet of "father of the House." It was a remarkable coincidence that those three gentlemen should have been Representatives from the city of Philadelphia, and that the title passed from one to the other in rotation.

When Mr. O'NEILL entered upon his Congressional career in December, 1863, the country was in the throes of war, and he served his State and country during the most important period of its history. It was the ambition of his life to serve to the end of his term in the Fifty-third Congress, when he would have covered thirty years in the service of a constituency whom he loved so well. There are very few instances in the history of legislative bodies where one person has represented the same constituency so long and honorably as Mr. O'NEILL.

No man in the House of Representatives was more indefatigable and untiring in his work. He was most punctilious and conscientious in answering letters, seldom allowing a day to elapse before replying to the many inquiries of his constituents, and there is no doubt but that his popularity among the people whom he represented was largely due to this fact.

He was industrious, painstaking, affable, extremely amiable, and obliging to a fault. He was a gentleman of the old school, and although his career was not what might be termed a brilliant one, it was useful and honorable. He was familiar with every detail of national legislation, and

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proved himself to be a hard-working, attentive, influential business member. While not a fluent speaker, whatever he said was direct and to the point, therefore effective, and this was particularly the case whenever his State, and especially the city of Philadelphia, was interested in the matter under discussion.

By the death of Mr. O'NEILL the House has lost one of its most useful and respected members and the State of Pennsylvania one of its best Representatives. He was perhaps better known and in closer touch with his constituents than any other man in Congress. His friends were without number. It is said that he knew every man, woman, and child in his district by name, and most of them by their first names, and he was usually familiarly addressed and known as "CHARLIE O'NEILL." No constituency was ever served by a more faithful and hard-working Representative, being unselfishly devoted to the interest not only of his own State, but to that of the whole country.

Nothing could swerve him from what he thought was the path of duty. He was particularly untiring in his efforts in behalf of those of his constituents who had pension claims, going to the Pension Bureau almost daily and personally perusing the papers in each individual case to see what further proof was necessary to expedite action and bring relief to those poor suffering soldiers and widows in distress who were patiently awaiting the payment of the debt the nation rightfully and honestly owed them. To hundreds of homes in his district he brought joy and happiness by his unflagging efforts in behalf of such claimants. He could be seen every morning during the sessions of

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Congress, with a large bundle of papers in his hand, trudging through the long corridors of the Departments, going from room to room, getting information here and there for one or another of his constituents, always cheerful and willing, with a smile on his benevolent face and with a cordial word for everyone.

Mr. O'NEILL occupied the home in which he died for a period of fifty-five years. He was very fond of this house, the library of which was well equipped with choice and rare books in which he took great pride. He was unmarried and lived with an elder brother and a niece. My relations with him were of the most friendly and intimate nature, unbroken after many years' acquaintance, and I trust I shall be pardoned if I relate a personal incident which could not but endear him to me, and one which, though insignificant as it may appear, I can never forget. During my entire term of service in the Senate while he lived he invariably paid me a visit at my residence here the Sunday morning preceding the opening of each session of Congress to shake me by the hand and to greet me most warmly and cordially. He never failed in a single instance, and so accustomed did I become to this visit, that I always looked forward to it with pleasure.

Mr. President, his was a kindly nature, a nature as gentle as that of a child, with a character as pure and spotless as snow. His whole life was devoted to ministering to the welfare and happiness of his fellow-men. When his work on earth was finished he closed his eyes forever and uttered these words: "I think I will sleep."

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ADDRESS OF MR. FRYE.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I will lay a single flower, and that a modest one, on the grave of CHARLIE O'NEILL. He was called by that name always by all who knew him at home and here. That fact is significant. It implies that he was generous, good-hearted, affectionate, loyal, and courteous. I knew him intimately, having served with him ten years in the House, and I can bear witness that such was his character. Mr. President, it may be that these are homely virtues, not sufficiently conspicuous to be mentioned in a tribute to the distinguished dead; but, sir, without them genius, eloquence, learning, and experience will fail to do their perfect work, while these alone of themselves are, as Senators well know, even in Congress a power.

I had occasion to speak in Mr. O'NEILL'S district several times. The mention of his name always elicited enthusiastic applause; not that he was a great orator, not that he was a distinguished statesman, not that he had any extraordinary gifts, but that he was gentle, loving, a warm friend and a good neighbor; that he was always faithful to them and their interests; that he never forgot or neglected their requests; that he ever remembered that he was the servant and they were the masters. The soldiers of the State idolized him, and well they might, for I venture to say there never was a member of Congress who devoted so much time and so much personal attention to their necessities as did he.

He was never conspicuous in debate, but his seat was always occupied and his place on committee was never vacant. No legislation ever passed the House affecting the

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interests of his constituents without his knowledge. Measured by what he accomplished, his career was a grand success. His character was spotless, his conduct pure. If ever frail man can, I believe that he loved the Lord his God with his whole heart and his neighbor as himself, and illustrated those beautiful lines of Coleridge in the Ancient Mariner:

He prayeth well who loveth well
Both man and bird and beast;
* * * * *
He prayeth best who loveth best
All things both great and small;
For the dear God who loveth us,
He made and loveth all.

Mr. President, our friend has crossed the "covered bridge," and in that country beyond these homely virtues shine with the brightness of the stars.

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ADDRESS OF MR. SHERMAN.

Mr. PRESIDENT: Among the many of our associates in the two Chambers of Congress who have been called away by death none have left behind them a more kindly remembrance than CHARLES O'NEILL. He followed the middle path of life. He neither aspired to the leadership of the House of Representatives nor pretended to excel in oratory, nor did he seek fame by novel measures or bold conceptions. He was not eccentric in dress, manners, or ideas. Yet but few men in public life in our time held so long the confidence, respect, and affection of his constituents. There is perhaps no constituency in the United States more intelligent than the one represented by Mr. O'NEILL, or one that could select from their number many Representatives greatly distinguished for learning, ability, and merit, and yet for fifteen terms, or thirty years, he was selected by his constituents to represent their opinions and interests in the House of Representatives of the United States. This fact alone is the highest evidence of his personal character and standing and of the appreciation by those who knew him best of his fidelity to his public duties, of his engaging personal qualities, and his honorable and faithful performance of the trust reposed in him.

This long-continued confidence is easily accounted for by his associates in the House of Representatives and by the members of the Senate. Mr. O'NEILL was a modest man. He neither felt nor asserted any supremacy or superiority over his colleagues. He was a kind and cheerful man. His ready hand and warm greeting to men of all conditions

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inspired trust and friendship, and his unfailing good humor created joy and gladness. He was a man of sound sense and judgment. These qualities made his presence in a committee room valuable not only to his constituents, but to the people at large. He had that kind of personal following and influence in the House that can only be created by courtesy, moderation, and kindness.

It had been my good fortune to know Mr. O'NEILL with some degree of intimacy since he entered the House of Representatives. He was rarely absent from his seat. It has been said of him that no one in public life has excelled him, or perhaps has equaled him, in responding to his name on roll call, or in his strict attendance to the business of the committees to which he had been assigned. In his personal intercourse with his fellow-members, without distinction of parties, he was always cheerful, courteous, and kind. His long service gave him the honor and title of "father of the House," and his uniform civility and kindness secured for him the good will, regard, and affection of all its members. He died without pain, surrounded by his family, and his memory is warmly cherished by his constituents, who during his long public life had supported him for his fidelity and now mourn for him that he is dead.

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ADDRESS OF MR. BUTLER.

Mr. PRESIDENT: One of the earliest acquaintances I formed in the other House of Congress when I entered this Chamber nearly eighteen years ago was the gentleman to whose memory we are paying tribute to-day. From that time until his last illness our relations were most cordial and pleasant.

He belonged to a triumvirate of distinguished Representatives of Pennsylvania—a State prolific of great men—Randall, Kelley, O'NEILL. The history and career of these Representatives of the people is without a parallel in this country. They came to Congress from the same city—Philadelphia. They received their credentials directly from the people, served them long and faithfully, and each died in harness. As unlike as possible in personal characteristics and qualities of mind and intellect, they were as one in fidelity to public trusts, in singleness of purpose, and sincerity of conviction.

Randall had the gift of leadership—combative; an able, skillful parliamentarian; aggressive almost to pugnacity; watchful, adroit in debate, tenacious, untiring. Kelley had many of the same qualities; more philosophic, perhaps, in the cast of his intellect; more given to abstract discussion and the support of favorite theories in political economy. O'NEILL was equally devoted to his convictions, equally tenacious of purpose; but he went about accomplishing his ends in a different way. He was less demonstrative; relied more upon his powers of persuasion and that quiet

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pertinacity in the pursuit of an object which is so effective when directed by a prudent, determined, intellectual mind.

In some respects these three great men were very much alike. They were all honest public servants, devoted to the interests of their constituents, loyal to constitutional government and popular institutions; and each in his own sphere and manner contributed a large share to the welfare of the people.

Mr. President, the ballot box is the best medium of expression of popular confidence in a man. It is there the people manifest their appreciation of his worth and character and stamp him with the imprimatur of their approval. Judged by this standard, Mr. O'NEILL is easily among the foremost men in our political history. I do not now recall that any man has had a longer service as a Representative in the popular branch of Congress. His twenty-eight years of service there could not have depended upon accident, or the arts of electioneering, or the influence of family, or wealth. It was based on the unbroken confidence of his people, rested on their faith in his integrity, ability, fidelity, and personal worth, and the assurance that he would watch and guard and protect their interests. Nor could it be said that he drifted along with events and let things take their course without endeavoring to correct and control them; for he was identified with and took a conspicuous part in some of the most exciting and important incidents in our national legislation and wielded a potential influence in shaping and settling them.

He was not given to much speechmaking and never affected the rôle of orator, as that character is generally

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understood, but he could hold his own in debate, and whenever he took the floor he spoke with effect and commanded respect and attention, because he spoke directly to the point and intelligently.

Mr. O'NEILL'S power as a legislator was due in a great measure to his business-like attention to the measures before the House, and his quiet, persistent, persuasive pursuit of whatever he had in hand. His energy never flagged and his watchfulness never ceased until he had carried his point or exhausted every honorable means to accomplish his purpose. He did not care for show or applause, but addressed himself with quiet energy and zeal to the work he had to do, and usually succeeded in what he undertook. Such men are much more useful in a legislative body than the showy, talking members, whose energies are exhausted in speechmaking and parade.

Mr. O'NEILL was liberally endowed with most attractive qualities. Strong and active in mind and body, he could assert and express himself, when the occasion required, with power and force, but there were no boisterous or inflammatory elements in his nature. He was quiet, sedate, always courteous and considerate, never wounding the sensibilities of those who for the time were opposing his measures or the objects he was promoting.

Taking him all in all, he was a model Representative of the people in a free republic, and this was attested by the uninterrupted confidence the people reposed in his ability and worth and by his long and honorable career in public life. The great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the great city of Philadelphia may well embalm his memory and services in their hearts, and the country at large may

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fitly cherish his career as one of the most honorable and distinguished in our political history.

Mr. President, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, I move that the Senate do now adjourn.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and the Senate adjourned until Monday, January 28, 1895, at 12 o'clock meridian.

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